

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rotwein called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Council members in attendance: West, Ladwig, Rotwein, Miller, Baker.

City Staff in attendance: City Manager Dan Berman, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, City Engineer Josh Wolf.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. CLOSED SESSION

1. *Public Employee Performance Evaluation and Contract Negotiations for City Manager Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957*

IV. CLOSED SESSION REPORT

City Manager contract has been renewed for 1 year. The Council will perform quarterly evaluations, based on a new job description and criteria that has been written for the position.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Rotwein/Ladwig) to approve the agenda as written. Passed unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 11-08-17 cc

Motion (West/Ladwig) to approve the minutes as written. Passed 4-0. Rotwein was absent.

VII. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS, COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

West: HCAOG – working on removing the last few billboards on 101. Update on Arcata-Eureka trail. Rancheria gave a presentation on 101 off ramp proposal.

Baker: STR report should be ready for the January meeting.

Miller: RCEA 90% CCA program support. Read Proclamation 2017-03; Human Rights Awareness Month (December).

Rotwein: Trinidad Trails Committee will be recommending that the City consider reversing the no dogs on Trinidad Head policy. Meeting with the Rancheria regarding the Galindo Street Trail, Tsunami Siren. Asking the County to prohibit commercial grows in the surrounding watershed. Met with State Lands Commission representative regarding the Harbor Lease. Measure Z applications are due in January.

Ladwig: No HTA meeting. Hopes to meeting with Noise Ordinance committee soon.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A written staff report was in the packet. City Manager Berman highlighted the hiring of the new Administrative Assistant Nicole Provolt, and announced that a second Sheriff Deputy will be starting in July to provide 2 additional days of coverage each week. Also, an emergency permit has been issued to the Civic Club for the moving of the Memorial Lighthouse, but a stop work order has been issued to review unauthorized ground disturbance.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

(Three (3) minute limit per Speaker unless Council approves request for extended time.)

Robert Sheer (& 1 other unidentified speaker) – McKinleyville
Spoke out in support of SB 562, Universal Health Care.

Patti Fleschner – Trinidad Civic Club

Announced the 100 year anniversary of the Trinidad Town Hall. Gave a brief timeline of various meetings, opportunities, and invitations to the Tsurai Ancestral Society representatives to meet with Club members at the Memorial Lighthouse site to listen to their suggestions as to how to resolve the issues. Met with various City staff members as well. Read 5 goals that the Club identified as priorities for the site. Thanked the Rancheria for their support and stated they would be fine stewards of the site should the Club need to dispose of it at some point.

Sungnome Madrone – Trinidad Area Resident
Supports SB 562 and encouraged the Council to support it.

Dorothy Cox – Trinidad
The encroachment removal project on Ocean Avenue has not started yet. Requested an update.

Kathleen Lake – Trinidad
Supports SB 562.

Shirley Laos – Trinidad Rancheria
Described the definition and regulations of “soil disturbance”.

Alan Grau – Trinidad
There are no minutes in the 2017 folder online. Praised the minutes from the November 08 meeting.

Roland Johnson – Civic Club Consultant/Representative
This is a miracle in the making. People have come together to make this happen. The contractor removed only a few inches of sod because you can't pour concrete on grass. The Council needs to support the City Manager and remove the stop work order. Concrete needs to be poured tomorrow morning.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Staff Activity Report for November 2017
2. Law Enforcement Report for November 2017
3. Financial Status Reports for October 2017.
4. Update to Salary Schedule
5. ADA Improvements to Library Parking

Public comment included:

Alan Grau – Trinidad

Regarding #4 (Salary Schedule), increases will cause further dependency on T.O.T. revenue. Regarding #5, why wasn't it done right the first time?

*Motion (Rotwein/West) to approve consent 1-5 and pull 6 & 7 for discussion. **Passed unanimously.***

6. ADA survey of Town Hall
*Motion (Ladwig/Baker) to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement for the ADA survey of Town Hall for \$4500. **Passed unanimously.***

7. Letter to County Planning Requesting Notification of Development Proposals in Luffenholtz Watershed

Public comment included:

Sungnome Madrone – Trinidad Area Resident

Applauded the effort of the Council to outlaw commercial grows in the Luffenholtz Watershed. There are several permits pending that are ministerial. There is a requirement that new developments have 50,000 gallons of water storage. They should not be able to double dip for cannabis purposes. Property values may rise significantly if cultivation is allowed. Certain County Planning Commissioners benefit directly from this. Upper watershed developments must monitor water extraction and collect the data. The City should be getting this information. Rainwater collection should be incentivized, and the City should consider connecting to MCSD water for redundancy if needed.

Kathleen Lake – Trinidad

Supports the letter adding emphasis that no ministerial and discretionary permits be allowed.

Council comments included:

Baker: The City Manager should contact Supervisor Ryan Sundberg to express the City's concerns.

Rotwein: The Trinidad Planning Area should be included, as well as banning all discretionary AND ministerial permits. Suggested strengthening the letter by adding that the area include all coastal watersheds that drain into the ASBS.

*Motion (West/Baker) to authorize the City Manager to send the letter to the County as amended on behalf of the City. **Passed unanimously.***

X. DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

1. Selection of new Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem

Mayor Dwight explained that he has served as Mayor long enough and would like to give another Councilmember the opportunity.

There was no public comment.

*Motion (Ladwig/West) to nominate Susan Rotwein for Mayor. **Passed unanimously.***

*Motion (Baker/West) to nominate Dwight Miller for Mayor Pro-Tem. **Passed unanimously.***

2. Streets and Roads Presentation, and Consideration of Resolution 2017-19: Committing matching funds for the Downtown Trinidad Pedestrian & Connectivity Improvements Project

City Engineer Josh Wolf explained that the primary purpose of the Downtown Trinidad Pedestrian & Connectivity Improvements Project (Project) is to remove accessibility barriers and extend new safe and accessible pedestrian routes (in accordance to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) along portions of Patrick's Point Drive, Scenic Drive, and Trinity Street. The secondary project purpose is to ensure the integrity of the roadway pavement.

Many of the existing sidewalks, driveways and curb ramps within the project area are noncompliant with current accessibility codes and standards and create a barrier in pedestrian mobility. The new accessible routes are needed to provide direct connections to the Trinidad Library/Museum, Saunders Park, Trinidad Town Hall, Trinidad Elementary School and the Trinidad Bay overlook at Edwards Street. Improvements are also needed to reduce conflicts and potential safety hazards between pedestrians and vehicles by formalizing and improving access to off-street parking areas.

Portions of Patrick's Point Drive and Trinity Street are exhibiting signs of extreme pavement distress and failure. These streets are the primary backbone of the City's transportation network and pavement failure would result in significant social and economic impacts to the community (including residents and businesses). This project is included in the Humboldt County Regional Transportation Improvement Program and was identified in the Trinidad Road Priority Transportation Projects report (GHD-2014) as a priority.

A project nomination sheet was submitted to the HCAOG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for consideration for programming in the 2018 RTIP. The HCOAG TAC recommended and the HCOAG Board approved this project for inclusion in the County's 2018 RTIP. In order to be eligible for funding, the city must approve a resolution committing funds to the project prior to December 15th.

Approving Resolution 2017-19 would commit \$30,000 in local matching funds to the Project.

The match funding would come from the approximately \$19,000 that the City will be receiving annually over the coming years from a combination of Gas Tax and other Transportation specific funding. This has increased from ~\$15,000/yr due to the recent additional gas tax. The City must spend these funds on transportation projects, but cannot always leverage them to bring in significant additional funding. The City can set aside a portion of this funding each year to accumulate the needed match funding for this project by 2021.

For a match of \$30,000, the City would be able to complete a \$580,000 project to improve our curbs, sidewalks, and pavement condition. Not committing these funds would result in the City not being eligible to receive \$550,000 in state funds as a part of the 2018 STIP.

Council questions included:

Baker: Would the City benefit from being responsible for Wagner Street and Parker Creek Drive?

West: Is \$580,000 really enough to cover costs in 3-4 years when the project is constructed? **Wolf** stated that the construction estimate is conservative, and if the costs change then the contingency is to complete only 1 side of Trinity Street.

Public comment included:

Shirley Laos – Trinidad School Board Trustee

The School would like to see the City install flashing lights at the crosswalk to alert oncoming traffic of pedestrians. Hoping to see this improvement in this plan proposal. **Wolf** explained that if LED lighting is desired, GHD can pursue other grant funds with the County proposals already being considered that will likely be funded sooner.

*Motion (Miller/West) to adopt Resolution 2017-19 committing \$30,000 in local match for the Downtown Trinidad Pedestrian & Connectivity Improvements Project, and authorize the City Manager to sign and submit associated paperwork to support the City's application for this project. **Passed unanimously.***

3. Consider Approval of City Manager Contract

Mayor Rotwein highlighted contract amendments, and explained that a final copy of the contract will be available on Monday. Changes include:

1. Salary \$79,000
2. 30 hours/week
3. Successful quarterly performance evaluations
4. City provided cell phone for City-related business

Public comment included:

Vicki Farmer – Trinidad

Thanked the Council for their work and supports City Manager Berman.

Jan West – Trinidad

Supports the contract extension. Thanked City Manager Berman for his guidance and expertise involved in many hours of work on the Memorial Lighthouse project.

Shirley Laos – Trinidad Rancheria

Thanked the Council and City Manager Berman for the positive relationship in the face of difficult situations. City Manager Berman has the Tribal Council's support.

Council comment included:

Miller: The Council is evaluating its own responsibility and guidance provided to the City Manager. We feel confident that with Council guidance, responses to and relationship with the community will improve. His pay rate is actually less than what the previous contract called for. We will monitor community concern closely throughout this upcoming year. The City Manager is the focal point for everything and a vital position for the City government.

Motion (Miller/Baker) to approve the amended 1-year contract with City Manager Dan Berman.

4. Request from the Trinidad Civic Club to Waive Permit Fees for the Trinidad Memorial Lighthouse Project.
Pulled and continued to a future meeting at the request of the Trinidad Civic Club.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Final phase of Stormwater II project grant match issue; Request to waive Civic Club permit fees; Reinman significant violation appeal; Dedicating Parker Creek & Wagner Streets to the City; Support SB 562, Support Clean Energy as compared to renewable energy; Galindo Street trail.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: 7:48 pm

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Gabriel Adams
Trinidad City Clerk

Susan Rotwein
Mayor